

**Introduced by Senator Leno**

February 23, 2012

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An act relating to solar energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1222, as introduced, Leno. Solar energy: regulations.

Existing law provides that it is the policy of the state to promote and encourage the use of solar energy systems, as defined, and to limit obstacles to their use. Existing law requires a city or county to administratively approve applications to install solar energy systems through the issuance of a building permit or similar nondiscretionary permit. Existing law prohibits a city or county from denying an application for a use permit to install a solar energy system unless it makes written findings based upon substantial evidence in the record that the proposed installation would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact.

This bill would make several findings and declarations relating to clean energy. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would assist local jurisdictions to develop building standards and permitting policies to ensure that there is a streamlined process for the deployment of solar distributed generation in the residential and commercial building sectors.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:  
3     (a) The state should assist local jurisdictions to deploy clean  
4 energy distributed generation technology in order to meet state  
5 clean energy goals and create jobs in this state.  
6     (b) The state can aid local jurisdictions to develop consistent  
7 statewide building standards and recommended permitting  
8 guidelines and permit fees for basic rooftop solar equipment  
9 installation.  
10    (c) Providing low-cost, consistent building standards and permit  
11 fees will increase the deployment of solar distributed generation,  
12 provide solar customers greater installation ease, improve the  
13 state's ability to reach clean energy goals, and create jobs in this  
14 state.  
15    SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation  
16 that would assist local jurisdictions to develop building standards  
17 and permitting policies to ensure that there is a streamlined process  
18 for the deployment of solar distributed generation in the residential  
19 and commercial building sectors.